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'Emergency' Meet On Southern Asked

An "emergency" meeting of all the nation's black college presidents in the wake of last week's death of two Southern University students has been called for by the president of Howard University.

James E. Cheek offered his Washington, D.C., campus as a site for the meeting "to review the tragedy at Southern" and "to consider ways to mobilize black educational leadership to make our views known about the problems, issues and future of our institutions."

No date for the proposed meeting was set.

As student programs discussing the events at Southern were held at Howard and other campuses, Louisiana Atty. Gen. William J. Guste said a 12-member commission he appointed yesterday will make a "grand jury type" investigation into the deaths of the two 20-year-old students, Denver Smith and Leonard Brown, during a police-student confrontation last Thursday at Southern's Baton Rouge campus.

In addition to the state inquiry ordered Friday by Gov. Edwin W. Edwards, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has begun a separate probe under Justice Department orders.

A Justice Department spokesman today said federal investigators frequently await the results of state or local probes before issuing their findings. This was true in the 1970 campus killings at Kent State University in Ohio, he said.

Deputy Asst. Atty. Gen. Ralph Erickson, who announced the FBI investigation, declined to say the number of agents involved in the federal probe but said, "It's more than a token effort, I can tell you that."

Guste today said friction-producing activities should be avoided by officials while his commission investigates the Southern incident.

"I think the president of the university and other public officials should take no precipitous action pending the investigation," the attorney general said while detailing plans for the full-scale secretive probe.

Guste said he thinks there is a "need to restore calm and peace and need for a time of prayer and recollection so that we can regain our balance."

The panel will attempt to pinpoint the blame for the deaths, Guste said, and may turn the information over to a grand jury when the investigation is completed.

He said the three-week period of unrest leading up to the deaths will also be probed.

"I hope the students at Southern go back to classes," he said. "We wish to assure them that the commission will investigate in depth. We believe other public officials will cooperate fully to make this investigation as thorough and complete, as in-depth as it possibly can be made."

Former Gov. John J. McKeithen today said if he had handled the Southern crisis, he would not have allowed students to take over any buildings and would not have sent in officers with live ammunition.

"Sending state policemen or deputy sheriffs, just one or two hundred of them, into a group where there are thousands, frequently leaves the officer no choice but to shoot or be humiliated in having his weapon taken away from him," McKeithen said.